

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 05325 191320Z

41

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 DPW-01 OMB-01 /070 W

----- 092222

O P 191140Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5598

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAN THO

S E C R E T SAIGON 5325

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF NVA OFFENSIVE - SUMMARY FOR PERIOD

ENDING NOON APRIL 19

1. GENERAL.

OVERALL, THE LEVEL OF COMBAT DURING THE PAST TWENTY FOUR HOURS HELD AT A FAIRLY LOW LEVEL. BIEN HOA AIR BASE TOOK LIGHT SHELLING FROM 122 AND 130 MM GUNS THROUGHOUT THE DAY APRIL 19. THERE WAS FIGHTING IN THE SOUTHWEST SECTION OF LONG AN PROVINCE AS ARVN INITIATED OPERATIONS BUMPED INTO NVA UNITS POSITIONING FOR AN ATTACK TOWARD SAIGON FROM THAT QUARTER. RADIO CONTACT WITH PHAN THIET, CAPITAL OF BINH THUAN PROVINCE WAS LOST DURING THE NIGHT OF 18 APRIL AND THE CITY IS PRESUMED TO BE IN COMMUNIST HANDS. WITH THE LOSS OF PHAN THIET AND BINH THUAN PROVINCE, ALL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SAIGON 05325 191320Z

OF THE FORMER GVN MR-II IS NOW COMMUNIST CONTROLLED. VNAF

PLANES STRUCK AT SA-2 MISSILE IN SOUTHERN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE WITH UNKNOWN RESULTS. TEN NVA INFANTRY DIVISIONS ARE NOW CONFIRMED TO BE IN MR-3. AT LEAST FOUR ADDITIONAL DIVISIONS APPEAR TO BE CLOSING THE AREA. DINH TUONG PROVINCE ALONG ROUTE 4 CONTINUES TO BE THE FOCUS OF ACTION IN THE DELTA.

2. MR-III.

BIEN HOA AIR BASE TOOK LIGHT SHELLING BY 122 AND 130 MM GUNS THROUGHOUT THE DAY, APRIL 19. FOLLOWING THE CAPTURE OF PHAN RANG ON APRIL 16, THE NVA 3RD DIVISION MOVED WITH GREAT DISPATCH AGAINST BINH THUAN PROVINCE. ATTACKS WERE MOUNTED AGAINST TERRITORIAL FORCES DEFENDING PHAN THIET AND ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 18, RADIO CONTACT WITH THE CITY WAS LOST. IT IS PRESUMED TO HAVE BEEN OVERRUN. WITH THE FALL OF BINH THUAN PROVINCE ALL OF THE FORMER GVN MR-II IS NOW COMMUNIST CONTROLLED. SOME GVN TROOPS WERE EVACUATED FROM PHAN RANG AND PHAN THIET BY SHIP. HOWEVER, LTG NGHI, MR-III DEPUTY COMMANDER WAS NOT AMONG THOSE RESCUED AND IS REPORTED TO BE WORKING HIS WAY TOWARD GVN LINES ON FOOT WITH SOME TROOPS.

THE XUAN LOC AREA OF LONG KHANH PROVINCE WAS GENERALLY INACTIVE DURING THE 24 HOUR REPORTING PERIOD.

SOUTHWESTERN LONG AN PROVINCE WITNESSED MOST PRESSURE IN THE REGION AS ARVN FORCES CLASHED WITH NVA UNITS MOVING INTO SOUTHWESTERN APPROACH TO SAIGON AND TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE.

VNAF STRUCK AT SA-2 MISSILE IN SOUTHERN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE WITH UNKNOWN SUCCESS.

MR-IV.

THE DELTA WAS AGAIN MODERATELY QUIET DURING THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. DINH TUONG PROVINCE REMAINED THE HOT SPOT THOUGH ACTIVITY DECLINED A BIT IN THE BEN TRANH DISTRICT AREA. A SERIES OF CLASHES 5 TO 10 KMS NORTH OF BEN TRANH RESULTED IN 26 NVA/VC KILLED. GVN FORCES ARE HOLDING WELL ALONG HIGHWAY 4 AND THE ROAD IS OPEN TO TRAFFIC. TWO NVA REGTS ARE MOVING EAST IN THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF MY THO AND THE MR-IV G-2

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SAIGON 05325 191320Z

BELIEVES THIS MAY PORTEND AN ATTACK ON THE CITY. ACTIVITY IN PHONG DINH PROVINCE CONTINUES LIGHT WITH THE ONLY NOTEWORTHY INCIDENT BEING THE REPORTED KILLING OF 20 NVA/VC BY GUNSHIP 13 KM NW OF THUAN NHON DISTRICT TOWN. MR-IV G-2 REPORTS THAT THE NVA 18B AND 95A REGTS APPEAR TO BE PULLING BACK FROM CAN THO TO THE SOUTHWEST.

MARTIN

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NNN

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